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# Suspect Is Believed to Have Told Soviet of U.S. Spying in Moscow

By STEPHEN ENGELBERG

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3 — Edward L. Howard, a former Central Intelligence Agency officer, is believed to have given the Soviet Union significant secret information about the methods the United States uses to gather intelligence in Moscow, Congressional sources said tonight.

The sources said Mr. Howard, who is being sought, had been trained in the secret techniques as he was prepared to be sent to Moscow as an operational officer for the C.I.A.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has said Mr. Howard, who is 33 years old, served in the C.I.A. from January 1981 to June 1983. One official said today that he left the agency after failing to pass a routine polygraph, or lie-detector, test and had not served in Moscow.

The official would not characterize the type of problem found by the polygraph but indicated that it apparently was not related to espionage. Another official said a test result suggesting espionage by an employee would have started a wide-ranging criminal investigation.

## Senator Expresses Concern

CBS News tonight quoted Senator Dave Durenberger, chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, as saying that the security breach caused by Mr. Howard could be as "serious as anything this country has seen in the past." Mr. Durenberger said that the suspect might have provided details of how the United States got sensitive information from the Soviet Union.

The intelligence committee has been briefed on the potential damage said to have been caused by Mr. Howard. Officials say he is one of two American intelligence officers identified as Soviet recruits by a Soviet defector, Vitaly Yurchenko, a senior member of the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence agency.

Government officials said today that the second suspect had been identified in the course of investigating the defector's statements.

## National Security Role Hinted

The officials would not say what agency of the Government had employed the second suspect, although one intelligence source indicated it was the National Security Agency, which deals with this nation's most secret codes and communications.

One intelligence source said the second suspect had access to details about secret United States electronic and satellite surveillance of communications. "Let's just say he was part of the intelligence community," that source said.

The C.I.A. refused to say whether it had ever employed the individual in question.

Officials have said Mr. Howard fled the country sometime on the weekend of Sept. 21, shortly after his friends and co-workers had been questioned by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Yurchenko is being questioned at an undisclosed location in the United States.

## Only Americans Under Scrutiny

One official said Mr. Howard and the second former intelligence employee were the only Americans under investigation as a result of information provided by Mr. Yurchenko, who defected to the West in July while he was in Italy.

Officials said Mr. Howard worked in the clandestine service of the C.I.A. He was charged on Sept. 23 with conspiring to provide national defense information to a foreign power.

Officials have said Mr. Howard eluded the Federal authorities and fled his home in Santa Fe, N.M. He had been employed by the New Mexico Legislature since 1983 as an economic analyst.

An intelligence source said Mr. Howard, "a disgruntled employee," approached the Russians with an offer to provide secret information. Various officials offered conflicting accounts on whether Mr. Howard began working with Soviet intelligence agents before or after he left the C.I.A.

## Denial by State Department

A Reagan Administration official said Mr. Howard left the agency after he was assigned to a post in Moscow. The State Department, denying published reports, said today that Mr. Howard had never served in the American Embassy in Moscow. The Agency

for International Development, which administers foreign aid abroad, hired him as an intern in Washington in September 1976. He was later assigned to Peru as an assistant project development officer and resigned from the agency in March 1979.

In mid-August, the Italian press published brief articles reporting that Mr. Yurchenko had disappeared and that inquiries were being made by the Soviet Embassy. But it was not until Aug. 30 that the Milan newspaper Corriere Della Sera reported that he was a defector.

One former C.I.A. officer said it would be unusual to assign an inexperienced officer like Mr. Howard to Moscow, one of the agency's most demanding posts. But he added that that Mr. Howard's supposed role as a member of the State Department might have been more convincing to the Russians because he had not served in jobs usually associated with the Central Intelligence Agency. A Congressional source said Mr. Howard held an "operational" job in the intelligence agency.

The former C.I.A. officer said this would mean that Mr. Howard had been responsible for coordinating information-gathering clandestinely. He would thus have access, the former officer went on, to a limited number of names of agents as well as the location of other sources of information such as electronic listening posts — but an agent in an operational job would not know about the networks of agents run by others in similar posts.